

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appn. No: 10/748,610
Applicant: Robert Thistle
Filed: December 30, 2003
Title: NON-POROUS GRAFT WITH FASTENING ELEMENTS
T.C./A.U.: 3738
Examiner: Christopher Prone
Confirmation No.: 7486
Docket No.: BSI-521US

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Mail Stop: Issue Fee
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

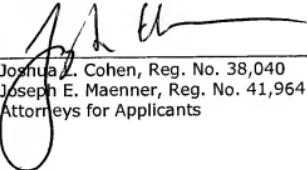
On Page 3 of the Notice of Allowability dated mailed July 17, 2008, the following statement of Reasons for Allowance is provided: "None of the art of record alone or in combination discloses a stent surrounding and attached to a graft, wherein the graft comprises two layers sandwiching a continuous ring that is then secured to the stent by a fastening member."

Applicants agree with this statement of Reasons for Allowance (1) only to the extent that it is consistent with one or more claims of this application and (2) only as it applies to any such claim.

It is noted, however, that this statement of Reasons for Allowance refers to a

"continuous ring that is . . . secured to [a] stent by a fastening member." The feature of the fastening member is not recited in claim 15. Claim 15 is therefore not limited to such feature.

Respectfully submitted,



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The Director is hereby authorized to charge or credit Deposit Account No. 18-0350 for any additional fees, or any underpayment or credit for overpayment in connection herewith.

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